

Light of Grace

A monthly publication of:

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1120 17th street South, Moorhead, MN 56560-5752

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January 1, 2025

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Children's Sunday School 10:15 AM

Greetings:

What a year. I don't know about all of you, but for me, it has been an absolute whirlwind of 366 days (it was a leap year, remember?! It was truly a roller coaster with ups and downs, twists and turns leaving me feeling dizzy and at times even disoriented. As tempting as it may be to just push on through it and hope things will settle down, it's far more important to reset.

Yes, it may be cliché to do it with the new year, but why not? It's a perfect opportunity to take stock of where we are and make a plan to move forward. For each of us that reset might look different: on your prayer life (see Del's article later on in the newsletter), on your finances, on your work/life balance, on your hobbies, or just on life in general.

Our sermon series throughout January is going to focus on just that. God's mercies are new, not only every year, but every morning! As we rediscover our true identity in the love of God, we will discover new purpose and, guided by the compass of God's values, head off in an exciting God-given direction!

Daily scripture readings will be made available at the start of this series to guide you in your individual devotional life as well. This will be a great series to invite a friend to join us for. We all know someone who is in need of a reset, and statistics show the most effective form of invitation is not a social media post or plug from the pastor, but it comes from a friend or a relative!

In this new year, may God grant you grace and peace, and discernment to love God and neighbor in all that you do!

Pastor Taylor



JANUARY SERMON SERIES- "Reset"

January 5- Soul Reset | Luke 3:21-23

January 12- Purpose Reset | Mark 1:32-39

January 19- Values Reset | Galatians 5:22-6:10

January 26- Destination Reset | Acts 9:1-19

WORSHIP AT GRACE

10:00 A.M.

WORSHIP SERVICES are livestreamed on Facebook and on the website: graceumcmoorhead.org

Offerings may be mailed to Grace UMC, 1120 17th Street South, Moorhead, MN 56560

Online giving available through Givelify! Go to graceumcmoorhead.org/give and click the button to make your one time or recurring gift.



PRAYER LIST AT Care Facilities

Pat Walter (St. Catherine S)
 Don Walter (Pioneer House)
 Luann Larson (River Pointe)
 Will Wehrman (Eventide—Fargo)
 Shirley Mohr (Serenity)

PRAYER LIST hospitalized or home

Linda Gibson Larry Possehl
 Eddie Ybarra Carl Lindner
 Lane Engelhardt



WOMEN OF GRACE

All Women of Grace are invited on Sunday, February 2, after worship, to our meeting in the Lounge. Women of Grace donations and the Spring Potluck event will be discussed. Come join us! Questions? Contact Phyllis M., 701-361-2745, or Jean G., 701-367-3587.



NEW BIBLE STUDY

We are excited to announce a new Bible Study starting on Wednesday, January 8th at 6:30pm! J. Roberts will be leading the group, and it's all about getting back to the basics. If you've never tried a Bible Study, this is going to be perfect for you! Enjoy fellowship, rich conversations, and growing in your faith each and every week.



January Birthdays

- 5—B. Beck
- 7—I. Smith
- 12—L. Roppe
- 14—J. Miller
- 16—B. Loeks
C. Gedrose
E. Hyvari
- 17—M. Forderer
C. Chandler
- 19—W. Port
- 22—L. Hamm
- 25—J. Eide
- 27—D. Chandler
- 28—C. Gedrose
- 31—C. Gedrose



DONUTS

Homemade Buttermilk Donuts are back and will be available January 8th & 22nd, 2025. To place an order for donuts call the office, 233-1857, use the sign up sheet on the table in the Connection Center, or on the website: www.graceumcmoorhead.org/donuts.



WOMEN OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to S. Fangsrud for receiving the Women of Grace “Woman of the Year” award during the Advent Tea.



CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Contribution Statements for 2024 will be mailed out around January 15th. Please review your statement and call the office for any changes and or corrections that need to be made.



NEW DIRECTORY

The new address and phone directory for 2025 are available. Please take one directory per family. If you need additional copies, please check with the office.

WHAT IS PRAYER?

Del Larson, CLM

Well, I'm curious? Last month I challenged you to think about your prayer life. Did you find your mind wondering when you said the Lord's Prayer, or any prayer? It is easy to get side-tracked, as memorized prayers can be said without thinking. That's like working on a project or meal while listening to your young children tell you about their pet monkey. When we pray we are expecting God to hear our prayer, and if it is part of HIS will, that He will grant us, or guide us to the answer of our request. We need to understand that our prayers must be sincere petitions, and that we are open for God's will.

Let's get started on ways that should help us on our prayer journey:

- * Start out with addressing your prayers to God, Father, Jesus, or Lord. Ask Him to hear your prayer.
- * Ask for forgiveness of your sins, especially those for people you personally have not forgiven.
- * Give praise and honor to Him for your daily necessities, and for His guidance from evil and temptation.
- * Ask for what you seek and that it may be completed by His will, not yours.
- * Give praise and respect that God's Holy plan is better than yours, and that you trust God to provide what you need in the time He has planned.
- * Ask that the Holy Spirit speak clearly to you and direct you. Then open yourself up to that experience.
- * Seek wisdom to know what's right and wrong, and the strength to follow God.
- * Affirm your prayer that you trust God and KNOW that He will provide for you according to His plan.

Remember, God is not Santa Clause, or a place to get your wishes granted. The Trinity is your counselor, adviser, supporter, rock, and especially your friend. There are **Do Nots** with prayer:

- * Do Not expect God to immediately answer your prayers. God has plan for you. He Does Not wave a magic wand.
- * Do Not expect that you can avoid suffering along your life journey. We lost that at the beginning of man. Changing a health outcome may take longer than you hoped. If you are trusting God, you will be celebrating with each positive change and step until you are healed, or you have joined Him in Heaven.
- * Do Not bargain with God. Never say that you will come back to church, give up drinking, nor swear anymore if He grants your prayer. God is not a used-car salesman.
- * Do Not share long-winded, haughty prayers with fancy words thinking that the more you say the better the

outcome. God wants you to speak from the heart. He knows what's in your heart.

- * Do Not lie to cover up transgressions. God knows all. Accept and take responsibility for your sins. Then ask for forgiveness, and work harder to correct your actions in the future. You will sin again, but hopefully, you sin less each day until the day you die.

Most of us have realized that we can't do life on our own. If you are a believer, meaning you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, and that He died on the cross, was buried, rose again three days later, and went back to heaven, I look forward to being with you in Heaven. I would have to write a novel to tell you how God has worked in my life to guide me to who and what I am today. Oh, I've messed up, been a disappointment, failed, but I know that my sins are forgiven. It's taken me longer than it should to realize how God has worked in my life and used me to serve Him. From nearly drowning at age 5, to surviving serious injuries when I was young, to guiding me when and how to serve as an adult. I've had a great life, but I don't need rewards or acknowledgments. I'm trying to do what God wants me to do. I'm anxiously waiting for that

hug from Jesus when I enter Heaven. If my kids were making the decisions, I would be doing absolutely nothing. I'd give-up the things God has called me to do, rather than listening to HIS call and directions. God told me it was time to step back from my leadership roles in church and the community. I did just that. My Godly focus is now on my writing, especially for caregivers in my online group, and those who seek me out asking for help. I will continue my monthly newsletter articles as long as God guides me in what to write. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind, that the most important gift I received, is how God guided me to my wife Luann. We have been married for 53 years. Luann thinks it's more like 106 years. There have been struggles and joys, but as we get older we realize what real love is and give thanks to God for His intercession and

guidance to bring us together. I have witnessed how God has used Luann to help me in my roles. She has guided me so many times when I have struggled. She is not very outspoken in public, but I'm so thankful for her help. From telling me to get my head on straight in college, to putting up with my crazy ideas. God knew she was right for me, and hopefully I was for her. Let God be your guide. Build that relationship with prayer. Lots of prayers. Amen!



Grace United Methodist

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Office Closed	2 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	3	4
5 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion 10:15 am Sunday School	6 1:00 pm Maybe Quilting	7 7:00 pm AA	8 6:00 am Donut Making 4:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 pm Choir 6:15 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Grace Youth Group	9 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	10	11
12 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School	13 1:00 pm Maybe Quilting 6:00 pm Board of Ordained Ministry Interview	14 7:00 pm AA	15 4:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry: 6:00 pm Choir 6:15 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Grace Youth Group	16 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	17	18
19 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School	20 1:00 pm Maybe Quilting 6:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting	21 7:00 pm AA	22 6:00 am Donut Making 4:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 pm Choir 6:15 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Grace Youth Group	23 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	24	25
26 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School	27 1:00 pm Maybe Quilting	28 7:00 pm AA	29 4:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 pm Choir 6:15 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Grace Youth Group	30 9:00 am Bulletin Deadline	31	

Date	Psalms	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Jan 1	am: 103, pm: 148	Gen 17:1-12a, 15-16	Col 2:6-12	John 16:23b-30
Jan 2	am: 34, pm: 33	Gen 12:1-7	Heb 11:1-12	John 6:35-42, 48-51
Jan 3	am: 66, 67, pm: 145	Isa 66:18-23	1 John 2:12-17	John 6:41-47
Jan 4	am: 85, 87, pm: 89:1-29	Exod 3:1-12	Heb 11:23-31	John 14:6-14
Jan 5	am: 2, 110, pm: 29, 98	Joshua 1:1-9	Heb 11:32-12:2	John 15:1-6
Jan 6	am: 46, 97, pm: 96, 100	Isa 52:7-10	Rev 21:22-27	Matt 12:14-21
Jan 7	am: 103, pm: 114, 115	Isa 52:3-6	Rev 2:1-7	John 2:1-11
Jan 8	am: 117, 118, pm: 112, 113	Isa 59:15-21	Rev 2:8-17	John 4:46-54
Jan 9	am: 121-123, pm: 131, 132	Isa 63:1-5	Rev 2:18-29	John 5:1-15
Jan 10	am: 146, 147, pm: 111- 113	Isa 40:1-11	Heb 1:1-12	John 1:1-7, 19-34
Jan 11	am: 1, 2, 3, pm: 4, 7	Isa 40:12-23	Eph 1:1-14	Mark 1:1-13
Jan 12	am: 5, 6, pm: 10, 11	Isa 40:25-31	Eph 1:15-23	Mark 1:14-28
Jan 13	am: 119:1-24, pm: 12, 13, 14	Isa 41:1-6	Eph 2:1-10	Mark 1:29-45
Jan 14	am: 18:1-20, pm: 18:21-50	Isa 41:17-29	Eph 2:11-22	Mark 2:1-12
Jan 15	am: 16, 17, pm: 22	Isa 42:1-17	Eph 3:1-13	Mark 2:13-22
Jan 16	am: 20, 21:1-14, pm: 110, 116, 117	Isa 43:1-13	Eph 3:14-21	Mark 2:23-3:6
Jan 17	am: 148-150, pm: 114, 115	Isa 43:14-44:5	Heb 6:17-7:10	John 4:27-42
Jan 18 #	am: 25, pm: 9, 15	Isa 44:6-8, 21-23	Eph 4:1-16	Mark 3:7-19a
Jan 19	am: 26, 28, pm: 36, 39	Isa 44:9-20	Eph 4:17-22	Mark 3:19b-35
Jan 20	am: 38, pm: 119:25-48	Isa 44:24-45:7	Eph 5:1-14	Mark 4:1-20
Jan 21	am: 37:1-18, pm: 37:19-42	Isa 45:5-17	Eph 5:15-33	Mark 4:21-34
Jan 22	am: 31, pm: 35	Isa 45:18-25	Eph 6:1-9	Mark 4:35-41
Jan 23	am: 30, 32, pm: 42, 43	Isa 46:1-13	Eph 6:10-24	Mark 5:1-20
Jan 24	am: 63, 98, pm: 103	Isa 47:1-15	Heb 10:19-31	John 5:2-18
Jan 25	am: 41, 52, pm: 44	Isa 48:1-11	Gal 1:1-17	Mark 5:21-43
Jan 26	am: 45, pm: 47, 48	Isa 48:12-21	Gal 1:18-2:10	Mark 6:1-13
Jan 27	am: 119:49-72, pm: 49, 53	Isa 49:1-12	Gal 2:11-21	Mark 6:13-29
Jan 28	am: 50, 59, pm: 60, 118	Isa 49:13-23	Gal 3:1-14	Mark 6:30-46
Jan 29	am: 40, 54, pm: 51	Isa 50:1-11	Gal 3:15-22	Mark 6:47-56
Jan 30	am: 55, pm: 138, 139	Isa 51:1-8	Gal 3:23-29	Mark 7:1-23
Jan 31	am: 24, 29, pm: 8, 84	Isa 51:9-16	Heb 11:8-16	John 7:14-31

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR RESULTS

Thanks to your faithfulness and generosity, we were able to donate many boxes of food, and many pounds of food to the Emergency Food Pantry!



GRACE YOUTH FUNDRAISER

Grace Youth is once again putting on a Super Sunday Sub Sandwich Fundraiser! Order forms will be available the second week of January both at the church and online. This fundraiser will go to support our youth mission trip to Denver, Colorado this summer.

THANK YOU!

Thank you, members of Grace, for your generosity in providing Christmas gifts for the New Life Center guests. This congregation never ceases to amaze us. P. Murray and K. Anderson, Women of Grace
New Life Center Auxiliary Delegates.

YOUTH NEWS

Hello, Grace! December can be a busy time of year for many, even us in Youth Group! This month, the youth had special events planned for every single Wednesday available! On the 4th, the youth were looking forward to putting together Christmas cards for those homebound in our community, including those in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. However, harsh weather kept us from meeting; unfortunately, we had to cancel. The following week, however, we were able to get together.

On the 11th, the youth had a field trip to Aldi! Our mission was to put together four reverse advent calendar boxes, which consist of a variety of non-perishable food items for each day of Advent. After shopping, we returned to the church to box our items, which will be donated to the Emergency Food Pantry. With this project done, the youth began looking forward to our next big event.

The Youth Group Holiday Party was held on the 18th! Dinner with the choir was first on our agenda, followed by a variety of games. Plenty of treats alongside a hot chocolate were complementary options for us during the evening. After a night of fun, we settled down to exchange gifts! We had a wonderful time; it

was the perfect way to wrap up the 2024 Youth Group year!

Looking forward to 2025, Grace Youth will be doing our annual sub fundraiser this February. This will help raise money for the Youth Mission Trip to Denver, Colorado in the summer! Order forms will be available soon, so stay on the lookout! Youth Mission Trips take us to different places around the country to serve those in need. This helps put what we're learning to use and gives us a taste of what being active participants in God's Church looks like. We spend about a week of our summer vacation helping others not for the hope of reward or the thrill of the journey We do it because this is what God instructs us to do: love your neighbor as yourself. One verse I find particularly inspiring when on such mission trips comes from Mathew 25:40. Jesus says "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." This shows us the true nature of Gods love and how God spreads it through us. Hopefully, this new year will bring many more service opportunities for the Youth Group along with even more teachings of God's great love.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year, from Grace Youth!